(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) Review of the Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and changes in it are made from time to time keeping in view various factors like rising prices, demand and supply position of various commodities, balance of payment position etc.

Storage of Rice for Export by FCI

2078. SHRI. V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has stored huge quantities of rice for export at Madras, Kakinada and Vizag ports;

(b) details thereof;

(c) when will this rice be exported; and

(d) what are the total exports of foodgrains expected by FCI this year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. FCI has moved some stock of rice ex-North to various ports for sale to the Private & Public Sector exporters who have purchased rice from FCI and have started exporting rice from Indian Ports.

(d) In view of the comfortable stock position in the Central Pool, Government has authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of fine and superfine rice (since decided to be increased to 3 million tonnes) during the year 1995-96.

Amendment of Child Labour Act

2079. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Child Labour Act to eliminate employment of children in hazardous industries; and

(b) if so, the details of changes/amendments proposed to be made in the Child Labour Act for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, to make it more effective, is under consideration of the Government.

Reduction of Coal linkages for Power Stations

2080. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Standing Linkage Committee for Coal in a meeting held in September, 1995 had reduced coal linkages for all Power Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of reduction in allocation in the quarter October-December 1995 vis-a-vis July-September 1995 for Power Plants located in West Bengal;

(d) whether the minimum coal stock position as per norms is maintained in the Power Plants after the reduced allocation; and

(e) how long the reduced allocation is expected to continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The overall linkages of coal to the power utilities for the quarter October-December, 1995 were more than the linkages given to them for the quarter July-September, 1995. The present linkages to all power houses in the country have been sanctioned taking into account the recommendations made by Ministry of Power and within the overall quantity earmarked for the power sector.

(c) The linkages to the power utilities in West Bengal for the quarter October-December, 1995 was 13.45 lakh tonnes per month as compared to 13.90 lakh tonnes/month for the quarter July-September, 1995. There was thus a marginal reduction of 0.3%.

(d) Some power houses in the country are having less stocks of coal.

(e) Coal companies are striving to minimise coal production and supply the same to all the consumers including power sector as per the annual plan finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission. Supply of coal to power houses is accorded top-most priority and is monitored regularly by an inter ministerial committee. Corrective action is taken wherever necessary. However, coal can be freely imported and the power houses can supplement their supplies through imports to meet any increase in demand over and above the agreed levels. The option of captive mining is also now available for power generation.

Non Consideration of Demand for Wage-Revision by FCI

2081. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FCI Management is not considering the demands of the employees for wage-revision due w.e.f. 1st February, 1992, time bound promotion policy to remove the acute stagnation prevailing among the employees at all levels, precipitating industrial unrest in this organisation which is declared as an essential service organisation; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take for removing the grievances of the employees and stop brewing industrial unrest in FCI?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India Management has proposed to enter into negotiations with the Staff Bodies shortly. The negotiations would inter alia, cover revision of wages of Category III and IV employees on IDA pattern and the demand of the employees for time bound promotion policy.

Identification of items for Import/Export through Ports

2082. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the list of items for export and import through Paradip and Gopalpur Ports in Orissa;

(b) if so, the items selected for export/import through Paradip port;

(c) which items are selected for Gopalpur Port; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government does not designate specific cargo for export or import through specific port. The selection of a particular port for export or import of cargo is made by the port users. Paradeep is a major port which mainly handles iron ore, coal, chrome ore and fertilizer besides general cargo. Gopalpur is a minor port under the control of the State Government of Orissa which handles, among other goods, fertilizers.